

Innovative Flexible Space Proposal



Prepared for: Faculty of Education

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Supported in principle by: Educational Technology Committee

Jul 12, 2017

PROPOSAL

Description

The intent of this proposal is to provide an innovative learning space that is flexible and adaptable to the variety of ways instructors from the Faculty of Education might engage students. Innovative instructional spaces are defined by what happens in those spaces. However, the configuration and furnishings can have an influence on the possibilities that instructors envision as they consider instructional approaches. The hope is that the physical changes suggested in this proposal will be a prompt to encourage instructors to practice innovative teaching.

This proposal focuses on changing the current teaching space in TH 341 and 373, with the option of repurposing adjacent office space. However TH 341 will get the most attention. The general concepts in this budget were presented to the Educational Technology committee in various forms over the last couple of years and more recently an early version was shared with that committee in the Spring of 2017. There was agreement from the committee to support the proposal in principle. Since that time there has been minor tweaks and changes to the proposal as we have done further research and became more aware of budgetary issues but the overall intent has been aligned with the original concepts agreed by that committee.

The current proposal is broken down into phases. Each phase builds on the previous upgrade. We view Phase 1 as mandatory, this needs to happen irregardless. Phase 2 is very appealing because we are getting such a great deal from RGO on the furniture. Phase 3 & 4 are also highly desirable dependent on budgetary considerations. What follows is a description of each phase.

Proposal Options

Phase 1 - Displays (First Priority)

Phase 1 will provide better displays for instructors and students to share information digitally. This will upgrade the existing classroom space by replacing existing projection displays with large TVs or monitors. For instance, two large TVs and one large touch-capable monitor would be installed at the front of TH 341. TH 373 would get 1 large TV and one large touch-capable monitor. Puck technology would facilitate sharing of displays in a flexible way (better solution than the current switcher boxes). This phase would also include a microphone system for broadcasting the instructor's voice across the room in TH 341.

Rationale: Both 341 and 373 currently suffer from rather poor projection displays that require the lights to be dimmed and the size of the screen in 373 is too small for the size of the classroom. Large TVs and Monitors will allow students to view the displays without the need for dimming the lights and by having multiple displays, it will give students a better view of the information on the screens. This seems like a necessary upgrade given the

FACULTY OF EDUCATION

status of the current projection devices in those rooms. The puck technology in both rooms will allow multiple devices to share a display as well as the option of mirroring an image from a single device. The microphone system is needed to counter act the white noise created by the fans in TH 341.

Phase 1 Budget - Displays

Here is a tentative budget for this option:

Description	Quantity	Unit Price	Cost
80" Sharp PNLE801 Televisions	3	\$ 4,042	\$ 12,126
80" Sharp PNC805B Touch-capable Televisions	2	\$ 8,824	\$ 17,648
Wall mount brackets for the TVs	5	\$ 100	\$ 500
Switcher Boxes & Cabling - Estimate only here!	2	\$ 500	\$ 1,000
Maintenance (electrical work installing Displays)	2	\$ 0	\$ 0
microphone system (so that the instructor can compete with the fan noise) https://www.lightspeed-tek.com/products/redcat-access/	1	\$ 1,299	\$ 1,299
Total			\$ 32,573

Phase 2 - Flexible Space - TH 341

This option would give TH 373 and 341 everything from Phase 1 but would upgrade only TH 341 as a flexible space with mobile furniture (everything would be on casters). This would include new tables and chairs with additional whiteboards. The space would be flexible - furniture and technology would be portable to the extent possible (everything would be on wheels). There would be whiteboards on all of the walls and small whiteboards attached to the tables for small group sharing. Each room would also be equipped with a flexible instructor table that can be lowered and raised so that the instructor station has a lower profile but wider work area, making it easier for students to view the large displays from any angle and giving the instructor more flexibility. These tables would replace the current rostrums. See the adjoining image as an illustration.



See the blueprints and mockups of TH 341 at the end of the this document for a better sense of what this classroom might look like. It should be noted that with this flexible arrangement the maximum number of students would be set at 44 for TH 341.

Rationale: This space would be a flexible innovative space where students can spread out and engage in a variety of ways with the content and with each other. This would facilitate students pairing up, working in groups or as individuals in addition to full class discussions or presentations. This would be a space where students collaborate, share, do micro teaching, do presentations to small groups, etc. The benefit here is how easy it would be to reconfigure the arrangement of tables and chairs. The instructor stations will provide more flexibility in terms of vertical positioning so that it can be used sitting or standing and accommodate instructors of different heights.



Phase 2 Budget - Flexible Space TH 341

Here is a tentative budget for this option:

Description	Quantity	Unit Price	Cost
chairs	44	\$ 309	\$ 13,607
tables (assuming two chairs per table)	22	\$ 357	\$ 7,851
Mini Whiteboards (2-sided, hangable)	44	\$ 69	\$ 3,029
Whiteboard wall tracks	5	\$ 122	\$ 611
Instructor Station (adjustable)	1	\$ 818	\$ 818
Total			\$ 25,916

Phase 3 - Group Media Stations (Mediascapes/Thread/Puck) - TH 341

This option would involve Phase 1 & 2 and with the addition of mediascapes, puck technology and thread technology. Mediascapes are large mobile TV stations for small groups, see the adjoining image. The puck technology is used to share video connections through the mediascape. Thread technology provides power underneath the carpet with flush mount power outlets. This would also include enough power poles for each of the Mediascapes or



groups. You can think of this as mobile Scale-Up stations. The plan is for 7 media:scape devices with 6 students at each station. The Thread technology will accommodate for the electrical issues. Thread technology has power on a thin strip that goes under the carpet with flush mount outlets. Portable power poles will make it convenient to plug in the mediascapes or recharge student devices. Carpet panels will need to be installed to accommodate this and the current carpet will need to be taken out.



Rationale: The media:scape stations will be used for sharing digital information or for collaborative kinds of tasks where everyone in the group needs see a common screen. This also allows any individual in the group to easily share a screen from their devices. This will facilitate collaborative group work that involves technology. The puck and thread technology are in place to support the media:scape stations (these will not work without those technologies).

Phase 3 Budget - Group Media Stations (Mediascapes/thread/puck) TH 341 -

Here is a tentative budget for this option:

Description	Quantity	Unit Price	Cost
Media:scapes stands w/40" Monitors & Puck technology	7	\$ 12,195	\$ 85,365
Flooring - new carpet and cost of removing old carpet	1	\$ 4,000	\$ 4,000
Thread wiring, 10 floor electrical outlets	1	\$ 2,359	\$ 2,359
power poles (extra for instructor station)	8	\$ 208	\$ 1,667
Maintenance cost - installation of electrical and possibly flooring	1	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000
Total			\$ 94,391

Phase 4 - Breakout Rooms

This option would involve all the previous phases but would include break-out rooms for when groups need a more private setting. These breakout rooms would be refurbished Faculty offices adjacent to TH 341. These spaces could be multipurpose breakout rooms for small groups (6 people). These areas could also be

reconfigurable for a variety of educational activities and used in the Undergrad & Grad programs and might accommodate the Counselling programs (although when the counselling folks were conferred they felt like they needed dedicated space for their purposes). It was determined that it would be quite expensive to furnish these rooms so instead of purchasing specialized furniture we could repurpose our old tables and chairs from TH 341 and put those into these breakout rooms. The current wall mounted desks in those offices would need be removed.

Rationale: As it stands many of the larger classes use space out in the hallways adjacent to TH 341 and 373 for group work. It is not uncommon to see groups of students sitting on the floor working on projects and this is not the best scenario for the group to stay focused as people try to navigate around the groups. Breakout rooms would be a welcome enhancement to the flexible classroom space.

Phase 4 Budget - Breakout Rooms

Here is a tentative budget for this option:

Description	Quantity	Unit Price	Rooms	Cost
Maintenance cost - room renovations (take out old wall mounted desks).	1	\$ 0	5	\$ 0
Total				\$ 0

TH 341

